

Remarks

The Examiner objected to the figures noting that numeral 10 is used twice to indicate different features of the invention. The applicant thanks the Examiner for noticing the error. The specification and figures 1 and 2 are now amended and it is believed that the Examiner's objection has been fully addressed.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,812,314 to Nonken. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assessment. However, in order to further clarify the present invention, claim 1 has been amended to explicitly claim that the edge board that engages an outer surface of said gas filled enclosure also forms the ground point for the three position vacuum switching chamber. The flange 2 of Nonken is not a ground point for any of the switches disclosed in Nonken. In fact, the switches of Nonken are two position switches and thus don't include a ground point in their stroke.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 050877.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /mcp/

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